# TED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:

NOV 1 2 2004

10/756,168

Filing Date:

January 13, 2004

Applicant:

HINTENLANG et al

Group Art Unit:

3676

Examiner:

PATEL, Vishal

Title:

SEALING RING

Attorney Docket:

8470G-000004

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

#### 1. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

#### 11. **COPIES**

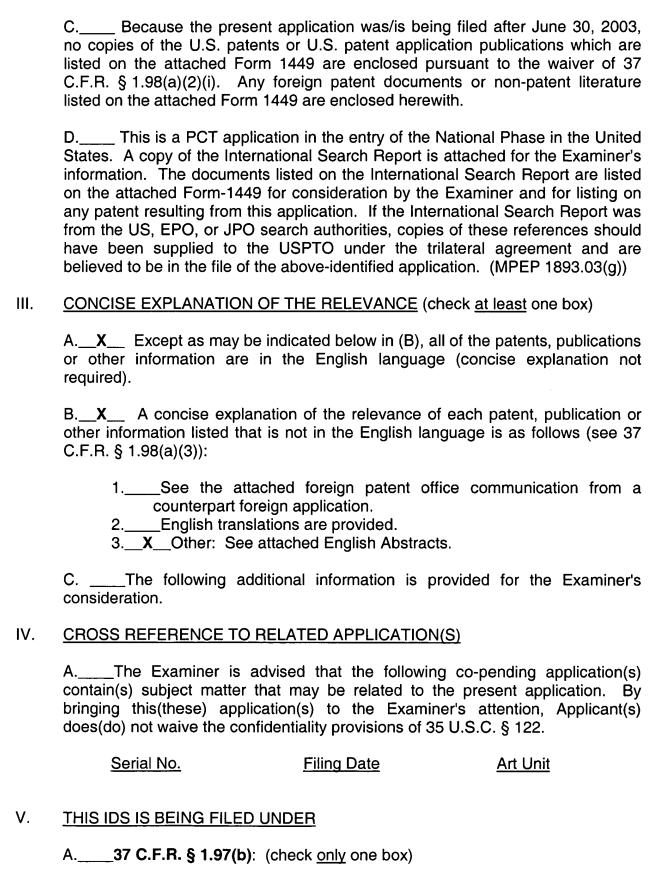
A.\_\_X\_\_ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cross-referenced pending U.S. application listed below in Section IV, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. \_\_\_\_ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

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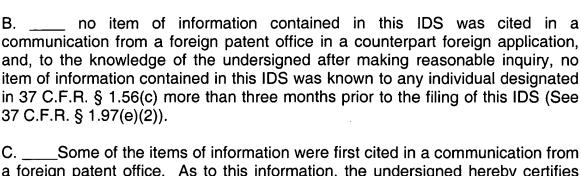
#### U.S. Serial Number

#### U.S. Filing Date



1 within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.
2 within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.
3 before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
4 before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.
BX37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)
before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.
<ol> <li>X_No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).</li> </ol>
2See the certification below. No fee is required.
C37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):
after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.
1See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)
The undersigned hereby certifies that:
A each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F. R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable: or

VI.



C. \_\_\_\_Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filling of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

### VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

## VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. \_\_X\_\_ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. \_\_\_\_Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 12, 2004

By:

Philip E Rettig, Reg. No. 34,000 Jason A. Heist, Reg. No. 51,797

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. Box 828 Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303 (248) 641-1600

PER/JAH



FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

# PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

SERIAL NO.
10/756,168
GROUP
3676

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes	No
1.		DE 35 03 602	4/24/1986	Germany		Abstract	
2.		EP 0 188 140	12/28/1988	EPO		Abstract	
3.		1 299 685	12/13/1972	Great Britain		Х	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)				
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials			
1.				

Examiner:	Date Considered:	